



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Kathleen Clarke
Executive Director

Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210

PO Box 145801

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

801-538-5340

801-359-3940 (Fax)

801-538-7223 (TDD)

DIVISION OF OIL GAS & MINING FIELD VISIT FORM TECHNICAL

Date : May 5, 1999

Time: 10 to 2

Mine: Hidden Valley

File Number: ACT/015/007, File #2.

DOG M Staff: Bill Malencik and Susan White

Other Attendees: Steve Behling

Purpose:

Look at vegetation from 1997 seeding on "B" seam.

Observations:

The soil contained some moisture from light rains over the past two weeks. No evidence of runoff was observed. Young seedlings and some year old shrubs, forbs and grasses were observed. Members of the Chenopod family were most numerous. Species observed included:

Winterfat

cheatgrass

Castle Valley Clover

Grass spp.

Fourwing saltbush

Kochia

Herbaceous sage

Pepperweed

Globe mallow

It was difficult to differentiate the grasses while still young. Mr. Malencik stated that he thought that some of the vegetation had germinated in 1998, went dormant with the dry weather and has now re-emerged. Although preliminary, the rework of the "B" seam appears successful.

The extreme surface roughening (pocking) has retained soil moisture. The pocks on the slope have filled with sediment. We discussed on site that perhaps if the soil had a little more moisture when grading the pocks may have remained longer. We thought that wetting the soil during the harvest could help lessen the powder effect and thus provide longer lasting pocks.

New vegetation was observed on other areas which were not reworked in 1997. The past

several years have been reasonably good precipitation years.

Recommendations/Conclusions:

The original task group which formed the reclamation design for the "B" seam should reconvene and evaluate the success of the project and make recommendations for the "A" seam and road work. The Division suggests that new seedings are evaluated in years 2, 4, 5, 9, and 10. Due to the arid climate at this site a quantitative evaluation could be postponed until year 3 or 4.

Signature:  Senior Reclamation Biologist on May 6, 1999

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